

Message Text

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70

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-20 AID-20 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11

FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 TRSE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12

SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-10 L-03

H-03 PA-03 PRS-01 USIA-15 DRC-01 /160 W

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P 281240Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 72

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE COLOMBO 2430

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON, CE

SUBJ: GSL ANNOUNCES FOOD STRINGENCY MEASURES

REF COLOMBO 2312

1. ACCORDING SEPT 28 EDITION TIMES OF CEYLON, PM ANNOUNCED
SEPT 28 TO GOVERNMENT PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOLLOWING SUBSIDY
CUTS, PRICE INCREASES, AND CERTAIN SALARY RISES, ALL EFFECT-
IVE OCT 1:

(1) FREE MEASURE RICE FOR NON-INCOME TAX PAYERS (PROBABLY
OVER 95 PERCENT OF CONSUMERS) NOW ONE POUND PER WEEK;
WAS TWO POUNDS PER WEEK.

(2) SUBSIDIZED RICE FOR TINY MINORITY INCOME TAX PAYERS
REDUCED TO ONE PER WEEK AT RS. 1; WAS TWO POUNDS AT RS
1.40

(3) BREAD PRICE INCREASES TO RS 0.76 PER POUND; WAS RS
0.48 PER POUND.

(4) FLOUR RATIONED TO ONE POUND PER
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PERSON PER WEEK AT RS 0.70; WAS NOT RATIONED AND SOLD

AT RS 0.48 PER POUND.

(5) SUGAR RATION CUT TO THREE-QUARTERS
POUND PER PERSON PER MONTH AT RS 0.54
PER POUND; WAS TWO POUNDS PER MONTH AT
RS 0.74. (OFF RATION BROWN SUGAR NOW
RS 2 PER POUND; WAS RS 1.65. WHITE NOW RS 2.10 PER POUND;
WAS RS 7.75.)

(6) GUARANTEED PRICE FOR PADDY
INCREASED FROM RS 18 TO RS 25 PER
BUSHEL.

(7) PUBLIC SERVICE AND CORPORATE EMPLOYEES
DRAWING SALARIES LESS THAN RS 400 PER
MONTH WILL RECEIVE TEN PERCENT INCREASE UP
TO A CEILING OF RS 20 PER MONTH.

2. FOOD COMMISSIONER HAS SUBSTANTIALLY CONFIRMED FOREGOING.

3. WE WILL SEND REPORT AND ANALYSIS OF PUBLIC REACTION
TO THESE MEASURES AND PREDICTED EFFECT ON NATIONAL FOOD
SUPPLY SITUATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
VAN HOLLEN

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Message Attributes

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30 JUN 2005

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